

3/10/2008

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to petition the new regulation to limit, change or further regulate our first amendment right to freedom of speech and religion. These regulations include: forcing every radio station to take programming advice from community advisory boards broadly representative of an area's population. New regulations would also include requirements that stations report every three months on how much programming of various types has been broadcast, who produced it, and how it reflects the interests of a cross-section of local residents – even those who do not share Gospel values. These regulations would force stations to grant a certain amount of airtime to any group that requests it and instead of routine processing by civil servants. A station's renewal application will be subject to the often multi-year process of review by the politically-appointed FCC commissioners. I understand that the FCC is also proposing to drive up the costs of providing Christian Broadcasting services by eliminating labor-saving technological enhancements and also considering a proposal that would force many Christian stations to relocate their main studio facilities. In doing this, many co-location arrangements would be forced to end – raising daily operating costs and imposing immediate expenses related to moving, construction of other facilities and overseeing forced relocations. I realize that if passed, these regulations would affect all radio stations including the Christian radio station I support (BBN Radio). BBN radio has never operated on the basis of shoving what they believe down persons' throats. I do not understand the urgency to take such clean and uplifting broadcasts off the air or to dictate what can and cannot be said. Is that not manipulating the first amendment right to freedom of speech? It is the right that America was founded on to believe what you believe and say what you need to say. Hopefully, we will not become a dictatorship like other countries. After all, this is how it usually starts. Slowly but surely the laws and rights are broken down until the people within are powerless. BBN Radio is a way for me to retreat from the hustle and bustle of life and all the commercials that flood my brain. I can focus on the things of God and I am grateful to those at BBN that struggle each day to bring me this blessing. If other people with different views want to broadcast their point of view, then so be it, I am not in objection; but let them work to achieve it just like BBN has done for years. BBN has to work twice as hard to have programming and radio broadcasts because they operate entirely on the listeners who support the station, not by selling air time for advertisements. However, they would not have it any other way. That is indeed one thing that makes them so great. It is important to them to be able to bring the message that they stand for and it is wrong for anyone or any committee to make it virtually impossible for them to operate. I appreciate broadcasts where I do not have to worry what my daughter might hear but instead, I would encourage her to tune into. As a mother, I believe that there are not enough stations like this one. If someone is offended by what is said or does not agree, they can simply turn the dial just like I do for stations that I do not care for. There is no reason to further regulate anything here, or to make it harder for stations like BBN or any other station to operate. It is not just

about Christians', but every person's rights that would be violated here. I challenge the authorities to see the big picture and do what is just in keeping our first amendment rights in tacked. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christa McClellan